

What is claimed is:

1. An incision locator comprising:

a first wing comprising at least one incision guide for ensuring proper alignment with an underlying surface, the first wing including a proximal portion that is adapted to be positioned adjacent to the greater trochanter of a femur forming a hip on which surgery is to be conducted, and configured to be oriented generally along a femoral axis of the femur; a second wing comprising at least one incision guide configured to indicate a proper incision location for a hip replacement surgical procedure;

wherein at least one incision guide on the second wing is oriented at substantially 30 degrees with respect to at least one incision guide in the first wing.

2. The incision locator of claim 1, configured to indicated a ten centimeter incision for a posterior approach in a hip replacement procedure.

3. The incision locator of claim 1, wherein the first and second wing are portions of an integral geometric shape.

4. The incision locator of claim 3, wherein the integral geometric shape is a triangle.

5. The incision locator of claim 1, wherein at least one of the incision guides is an opening in a surface of the incision locator.

6. The incision locator of claim 1, wherein at least one of the incision guides is a transparent portion of a surface of the incision locator.
7. The incision locator of claim 1, configured to allow an incision to be performed using at least one incision guide of the second wing.
- 5 8. The incision locator of claim 1, configured to allow an incision to be performed using at least one incision guide of the first wing.
9. The incision locator of claim 1, configured to allow an incision to be performed using at least one incision guide of both the first and the second wing.
- 10 10.A method for conducting hip replacement surgery, comprising:
  - providing an incision locator comprising a first wing and a second wing, the first wing adapted to be oriented generally along a femoral axis of a femur forming a hip on which surgery is being conducted;
  - positioning a proximal portion of the first wing adjacent to a tip of a
  - 15 greater trochanter;
  - positioning other portions of first wing generally parallel to the femoral axis;
  - indicating a proper placement of an incision based at least in part on the position of the second wing of the incision locator;
  - performing an incision using at least one incision guide in at least one of
  - 20 the first and second wings; and
  - completing the surgical procedure.

- 11.The method of claim 10, wherein the incision is a ten centimeter incision for a posterior approach in a hip replacement procedure.
- 12.The method of claim 10, wherein an angle between the first and second wing is substantially a 30 degree angle.
- 5 13. The method of claim 10, wherein an angle between the first and second wing can be selectively adjusted.
- 14.The method of claim 10, wherein the first and second wing are portions of an integral geometric shape.
- 15.The method of claim 14, wherein the integral geometric shape is a  
10 triangle.
- 16.The method of claim 10, wherein at least one of the incision guides is an opening in a surface of the incision locator.
- 17.The method of claim 10, wherein at least one of the incision guides is a transparent portion of a surface of the incision locator.
- 15 18.The method of claim 10, wherein the incision is performed using at least one incision guide of the second wing.
- 19.The method of claim 10, wherein the incision is performed using at least one incision guide of the first wing.
- 20.The method of claim 10, wherein the incision is performed using at least  
20 one incision guide of both the first and the second wing.

21. A method comprising:

providing an incision locator comprising a first wing and a second wing, the first wing comprising at least a first incision guide and a second incision guide and the second wing comprising at least one marking opening;

5 providing an indication of a femoral axis on a patient's leg;

providing an indication of a greater trochanter tip on a patient's leg;

aligning the first incision guide with the indication of the greater trochanter tip;

aligning the second incision guide with the indication of the femoral axis;

10 aligning the second wing of the incision guide to point posteriorly; and

making an incision based at least in part on the incision guide of the second wing.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the incision is a ten centimeter incision for a posterior approach in a hip replacement procedure.

15 23. The method of claim 21, wherein providing an indication of a greater trochanter tip comprises placing a pin on the surface of patient's leg.

24. The method of claim 21, wherein palpation is used to assist in aligning the incision locator.

25. The method of claim 21, wherein fluoroscopic images are used to assist in  
20 aligning the incision locator.

26.The method of claim 21, wherein anatomical measurements are used to assist in aligning the incision locator.

27.The method of claim 21, wherein an angle between the first and second wing is substantially a 30 degree angle.

5 28. The method of claim 21, wherein an angle between the first and second wing can be selectively adjusted.

29.The method of claim 21, wherein the first and second wing are portions of an integral geometric shape.

10 30.The method of claim 29, wherein the integral geometric shape is a triangle.

31.The method of claim 21, wherein at least one of the incision guides is an opening in a surface of the incision locator.

32.The method of claim 21, wherein at least one of the incision guides is a transparent portion of a surface of the incision locator.

15 33.The method of claim 21, wherein the incision is performed using at least one incision guide of the second wing.

34.The method of claim 21, wherein the incision is performed using at least one incision guide of the first wing.

20 35.The method of claim 21, wherein the incision is performed using at least one incision guide of both the first and the second wing.